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Beginning the Year with God

THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD

From prayer that asks that I may be sheltered from winds that beat on me; from fearing when I should aspire, from faltering when I should climb higher; from silken self, O Captain, free Thy soldier who would follow Thee.

From subtle love of softening things, from easy choices, weakenings (not thus are spirits fortified, not this way went the Crucified), from all that dims Thy Calvary, O Lamb of God, deliver me.

Give me the love that leads the way, the faith that nothing can dismay, the hope no disappointments tire, the passion that will burn like fire. Let me not sink to be a clod; make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.

—Amy Carmichael.

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VOL. XXXV JANUARY-FEBRUARY
No. 1 1954

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CATHERINE RUTH SMITH, Editor

What Is Your Memory Worth?

I once knew a gifted actor whose memory was supposed to be worth a good sum of money. William E. Gladstone had a remarkable memory. He cultivated it by hard study and determination. All who are interested in THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD need good memories. It is so easy to forget the lonely missionaries in isolated places. Some find it difficult to write picturesque letters. Shall these be forgotten? Paul would say, "God forbid."

When you discover that your memory is no longer quite reliable, and it is hard to make progress in prayer, turn to Romans 8.26. What a glorious word of help and cheer! The Spirit helpeth our infirmities. The wheels of our prayer-chariot need some oil. Begin by praising God for the Holy Spirit and His comforting power.

Peter Smoljar, a fine Hebrew Christian whom I helped in Latvia, said to me: "Has God forgotten His people Israel? Look," he exclaimed as he pointed to Jewish converts. "No! No! God loves His people. 'Israel My Glory.' " Have *we* forgotten? That is the searching question. Let us read the prophecy of Isaiah again. Turn it into prayer. That is the way to prosper. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed." "The mouth of the Lord declares it." Get that picture into your heart and mind—NOW.

I love to read Isaiah 40. It fills me with new hope and enthusiasm for Israel and God's great purpose. Thousands of lukewarm believers will be ashamed at the judgment seat of Christ (II Corinthians 5.10). They forgot Israel and the Divine plan for Israel.

Therefore we must arouse ourselves to pray, work, sacrifice, and love the unlovely by the Grace of God. "Behold, He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him." "O Lord, come quickly." God bless all the Fellowship soul-winners.

Joyfully yours,

F. SPENCER JOHNSON.

1 Approach Road, Dane Park, Margate, England.

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The Year in Switzerland

Biel-Mett, Switzerland, November, 1953.

Very dear friends in Christ:-

In a letter sent recently, we read: "It is bleak November; the skies are leaden; heavy fogs hover over the countryside nearly every morning; the winds are sharp, and whine around the corners, stirring up the last leaves of yesteryear." That expresses our situation quite exactly. Another year of service for our beloved Lord draws swiftly to a close, and we feel that we owe you a brief message in regard to the work that has been done in His worthy Name.

Above all else, we want to thank every one of you who has faithfully prayed for us. This is the secret of victory in all that we attempt to do for Him. Furthermore, we wish to praise God for every gift of love that has been entrusted to us for the maintenance and advance of our work with Christian literature, which is now being distributed in some eighteen different countries of the world. This constitutes a most wonderful privilege, as well as a tremendous and ever-increasing responsibility. Considering the modest means at our disposal, the task often seems hopeless. But then, "Our Father knoweth" what things we have need of. He has been pleased to choose the base things of the world, that He might put to shame them that are wise.

As in former years, it was our privilege to accept invitations to some thirty different towns and villages. More than 320 Gospel meetings, Bible hours, and public services were held. When at home, seven Christian meetings have been visited regularly, either weekly or monthly. Seven weeks of evangelistic meetings have been held in Gospel halls or Gospel tents. More than 22,000 kilometers have been traveled in the "Opel Olympia." With hearts full of gratitude to God, we testify of His power which has kept us from all accidents, in every kind of weather, in the day and more often at night, summer and winter.

During 1953, through the mercy of God and the offerings of His people, we have been enabled to print about sixty Gospel tracts and pamphlets, running from four to fifty-two pages each; all in all, some 713,000 copies. Most were in the German language, the rest in French and Italian. It seems a trifle to set down such sober figures, but actually there is a tremendous effort and much sacrificial work back of it. We are deeply sorry that, instead of being able to launch out and grow constantly, we had to reduce drastically, which is the hardest thing for an offensive soldier to do. Instead of shipping out 800 parcels, we could only send about 600. Instead of 12,000 pounds of Christian Gospel literature, we could only send out about 8000 pounds. It is so hard not to enter open doors, and to say no to applications. Priceless opportunities pass by, never to return.

Being often able to follow the pamphlets and tracts from the manuscript stage to their final use, we are thrilled over their effectiveness. Wonderful stories could be told, as to how the Lord still uses these humble efforts. Each tract has its specific history and purpose. How much lies in a prayerfully considered title, in neatness of make-up, and timeliness of content! Among the typical Gospel tracts, we had also one, this year, with the title: "Must Christians Smoke?" Tens of thousands of billboards, magazines and newspaper ads propagate interest in smoking. Practically the whole Christian press is silent about this destructive, evil habit. Ever so many pastors and preachers prepare their sermons in a cloud of smoke. Church conference rooms are often filled with smoke. Repeated orders show what a great need exists for just such a message. Then there is a leaflet entitled, "At the Threshold of Eternity," which is meant to be passed out at the gates of

cemeteries. During the month of November, hundreds of thousands of people make their pilgrimage to the cemeteries. Christian workers stand at the gates and pass out the above-mentioned tract, or perhaps another entitled, "It Is Later Than You Think."

Two annual carnival festivals have grown to alarming proportions. Here again we have a special tract to pass out. The distributors are supplied from large stocks available. Every house in the city and every surrounding village is being reached. The Christian workers band together for regular campaigns.

At our annual conference in Basel, one of the main themes was found in Philippians 3.1, "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord." A gifted music teacher who is a very active tract distributor handed us a poem, with the melody to accompany it. Ruth harmonized it for all four voices, and we published it. It is being sung by many choirs and churches, and is bringing great joy. Thousands of downcast Christians, who need encouragement, have been helped by this song.

Now I feel that I should mention some of the good friends who have been so greatly assisting us. The Moody Press made it possible to have about a quarter-million Gospel tracts printed specially for the refugee camps in Germany. Then, too, grants of hundreds of Moody books in the German language, each running to about 120 pages, with an attractive jacket, were placed at our disposal. If we feel like singing, "God bless the school that D. L. Moody founded," we mean it as a prayer as well as a song.

Then there is a Swiss theologian and fundamental pastor here, who is a prolific Christian writer on Bible themes. From every edition of his books and booklets, he has been donating to us hundreds and thousands of copies, and some of the books have as many as 300 pages. Had we an actual estimation of their value, these grants would run to thousands of dollars in all. We praise God for this wonderful helper.

Then I want to make mention of a brother, an unknown, a simple working man and Sunday School teacher, who has meant a great deal to us. Very often, when our stock-rooms were depleted, a box would come with some 30,000 Gospel tracts he had bought from various publishers. When he visited us, he looked to be a poor working man. Nevertheless, for years he has faithfully sent us hundreds of thousands of Gospel tracts, single-handed. I am sure the Lord has a crown ready for him.

Now I want to mention to you a dear brother in Germany. He is a six-footer, with a broad smile on his face. He has a childlike faith, like that of David, and the bearing of a Goliath. He is one of our most important men in Germany. He is connected with a big banking concern, but actually his main business is the spreading of Christian literature. Most men have some fault, and this is his: he seems to have the impression that the Stettlers can supply any number of leaflets, at any time, in record time. We praise God for this valuable Christian worker, who is more interested in laying up treasures in Heaven, than in the bank where he works. Brother Kellner deserves our prayers.

May I mention some of the further prospects? Being recently in Italian Switzerland for a week, we were approached by the preachers of the Italian radio staff. Could we supply them with a great many more tracts in French and Italian, for their extended radio ministry? They broadcast over Monte Carlo. A brother from Italy writes me as follows.

"One could travel for a year in Italy without ever finding a Bible or a New Testament. If told that they should read the Bible, they answer: 'What kind of book is that?' Out of some 46 millions of people, it is estimated

that 43 millions have never had a Bible or a New Testament. Of some 240 larger cities, only about ten have an Evangelical Gospel testimony or anything like a Gospel work. This is a country that claims to have the oldest Church, that is being governed by the Pope, and that swarms with prelates, priests, monks and nuns. But it is a country without the Word of God. This is what they have managed to do throughout two thousand years of Church history: keep the Bible away from the people. What a tragedy!"

Another prospect. A few weeks ago we found a number of Salvation Army officers at our door. They are active in the Belgian Congo. Were we willing and able to print for them Gospel tracts in an African language, to be used in the Congo? After prayer and consideration we answered: Provided they sent us the typewritten manuscripts, and the Lord took care of the funds, we would be happy to encourage them in their fields of service. How often we read in Holy Writ: "And it came to pass . . . " Why should this far-off service not come to pass? Shall we not make it an object of our prayers? He certainly can bring it to pass.

Now for those who expect a personal note about the family, I might say: We have been spared from serious illness throughout the year. For 1953 we might pass on the exciting news that we have become grandparents. Miriam Elisabeth has come to join the family. John (13) and Tabea (11) are quite tickled to be already uncle and aunty.

Having stated some of our joys and some of our responsibilities, we solicit your partnership in prayer. Much remains to be done. What we have written are only fragments; the Lord keeps records. His personal fellowship is more than all. What a privilege to be His co-laborers!

(From a later letter, December 14th.) In the meanwhile I trust you have received our annual report. There are no sensations in it, and yet it shows the mercy of the Lord upon one of the least of His efforts. We are keenly conscious of the fact of our limitations in every direction. But, too, we are permitted to see that the work done for Him is not in vain. Daily we receive letters telling of His blessing upon the testimony of the Gospel tracts. The outstanding and encouraging experience of this last month has been a regional conference that we held for the first time in sixteen years. God has been pleased to bless this gathering, and from various sides I heard that people wished it to become an annual affair. Some seven or eight brethren from the local Churches got up and testified, so that I was not even needed. It was the greatest uplift to me to know there were men who could carry on a conference in which the preacher did not even need to get up or help out. This is a good sign, in a time when everybody evades responsibility in our Christian meetings.

This week the first Christmas programs commence. Ever so many will once a year come under the Word, who ordinarily never attend. It is a great responsibility to pass out a message into the overcrowded minds and hearts of the people at such a time as this. Folks are full to the brim with interests that are the very opposite to the interests of the Gospel. But, in or out of season, Christ came to seek and to save the lost.

(January 11th.) As late as December 28th we were still picking salads in our garden. We had one of the most beautiful autumns I can ever remember. But right after Christmas was past, winter came with all its severity, heavy snow and cold and avalanches all over Switzerland. The dry season had caused a lack of water in many places, without which cattle and whole cities cannot live. I wonder whether people have learned to pray: "Give us this day our daily water"? We have been using of this lavishly spilled element without ever thinking that it might fail some day.

After the holidays, with such diversified meetings, and so many items of interest, it seems I have nothing to say or to report that might be of interest or importance. Wait a minute. We have been sending 80,000 Gospel tracts to Roman Catholic Austria. Protestants hardly realize how difficult it is to work in the solidly Catholic countries. Then we have been supplying a German Bible School in Curitiba, Brazil, with Christian literature, and of late they have been able to send Gospel messages over the radio. We sent the first shipment of phonograph records for these radio messages, and hope they will arrive safely. According to reports from the letters we receive, there are large numbers coming to Christ in that country.

Again, the Christian meetings here in Switzerland have been taking care of the radio messages over the station in French Guiana. They too can use Gospel songs in English and French. I wonder if any Christians in the United States would care to send Gospel song records to French Guiana, for use in these English language services over the radio. The address is: Mr. Richard Blunier, Maison Emmanuel, Rue Mme. Payé, Pro. 30, Cayenne, French Guiana. Is it not wonderful that whole territories can be reached by such services!

Here things move along as usual. I am dated for some series of Gospel meetings up in the Alps again. Much is being done here, but the response is often discouraging. The attractions of the world for the younger generation are tremendous, and only out-and-out Christians will stick to the Gospel of Christ. Nevertheless God has been pleased to bless here and there, and by all the letters we receive daily, we feel it was owned of God, what has been done for Him. For the New Year we have drawn a Scripture text: "Blessed be the Lord day by day, He beareth for us, the God of our salvation" (Psalm 68.19). In German it is somewhat different: *Gelobet sei der Herr taeglic . Gott legt uns eine Last auf, aber Er hilft uns auch.* May He help you too aily. How we need it. We have had many a hard spell of late, and often it seems there is no end of it. But this is what draws us to Himself.

Now greetings to you in the matchless Name of our blessed Lord.

FRED and MARTHA STETTLER.

The Year in Israel

Tel Aviv, Israel, December 28, 1953.

Now the year 1953, too, is drawing to its end. It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting and writing my report for the year 1952. The main thing which I commented upon then was the absence of conversions. The main theme of the present year has been the same. In this respect there is no change.

Out of all the masses (and they were very many) who have heard the Word of God, and who have been treated at the Clinic, some have shown a degree of interest in the truth, but these too have disappeared, we have seen nothing more of them. I am not speaking of those hundreds and hundreds of patients who come into our Clinic only for treatment, as they would come into any other kind of medical institution. They come and go, entirely untouched. But why do those who have been touched disappear? What are the reasons for this?

One of those I have mentioned, who have shown some interest in the truth, is a serious-minded man, who had a position (perhaps he has it no longer) with the municipality of Tel Aviv. He said to me once: "If they knew at the office that I was attending these meetings, I would lose my job immediately"; and he has a wife and a small child. After this we saw him a few times at the meetings, not only at the evangelization meetings on Saturdays, but also in the Church services; and then on a sudden he disappeared completely, we saw nothing more of him, we do not know what has become of him.

Israel counts itself a democratic republic, but for all that, there is not a single Jewish Christian who can get a job here, whether with the government or outside of it. This does not merely apply if he is an out-and-out believer; but even if anyone begins to attend the meetings frequently, if they find out about it, he will be fired from his position. And it is readily understandable that when a man has only just begun to seek the truth, and is not firmly grounded in the faith, you cannot expect him to stand up under general terrorization and threats.

Among those who have been attending our meetings for many years, there is a certain young Jewish tailor. It may be thought that he has truly come to have faith in Christ (I recall him now as an exception). He has a small tailor's shop, where he works alone, without any master—he is his own master—and without any assistants, taking in various kinds of clothing for mending. Once I asked him whether he had opportunity to read the Word of God at home (he lives in the house of his parents). He answered: "No, but on Saturday afternoons, after dinner, I go into my shop, lock the doors from the inside ('for fear of the Jews'), and there I read the Scriptures." It may be that many of those who have attended our meetings, and who have bought Bibles and New Testaments from us, are reading them in this way, behind locked doors, "for fear of the Jews." It is not given us to see when they read or when they pray (if they do pray), but God sees, as Christ saw Nathanael, when he was under the fig-tree. Our role is like that of Philip, to lead these Nathanaels to Christ through literature, conversation and preaching.

As I have written in an earlier report, Brother Ostrovsky was absent, journeying abroad, for about six months. During his absence we had a great many guests, who took his place at different times. Now he is with us again. And again, as formerly, our Clinic sees him every Saturday in the pulpit, boldly and fervently glorifying the name of Christ. Our hall and corridor are generally packed with listeners, especially the last few Saturdays (and yet this is in the winter season, when the scope of the work is somewhat decreased, by comparison to the summer).

It is no exaggeration to say that this is the only place in Tel Aviv where the testimony to Christ is given so publicly and in such uncompromising fashion; and, I may be permitted to add, on such a large scale and in such vast proportions. This is a distinctive privilege, and a mercy of the Lord, with which He has endued us, and which we have not deserved.

I take this opportunity of sending heartfelt thanks to those kind readers who have been praying about the sanitary conditions around the Clinic. After the Clinic had been whitewashed and painted inside and out, it began to take on a very attractive and inviting appearance, and until recent days the area around it was also quite clean. We are separated from our neighbors by an iron railing, and we have made a separate entrance into the Clinic. But in the last few days the situation has greatly changed for the worse. They have begun to cut through the railing with metal-cutters (a special kind of scissors), and through the railing they are throwing mud at the wall and the

door, while they pour down filth from above, and so on. Therefore we again ask our readers to pray about this, because back of all these things stand the dark powers which are hostile to the work of God.

In the year 1953 we had 9095 registered patients in the Clinic building. There is also a considerable number of patients who do not come here, but are attended by the staff of the Clinic at their homes.

Our sincerest wishes for God's blessing in the New Year.

JAMES YUK.

The Year in France

Nice, Alpes Maritimes, December 30, 1953.

"Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness."

My dear praying friends:-

"You helping me by your supplications for me, that thanksgiving may from many tongues be offered up on my behalf for the blessings gained to me by many prayers." This verse comes to me as I think of you as helpers through the past year. For as the shadows lengthen and the darkness deepens, in the manifestations of multiplied errors and horrifying sins, we appreciate more and more the prayer of faith. For it is spiritual warfare, it is striving together that alone can bring forth the abiding fruit among us.

In the last part of the Second World War, when the German authorities ordered me out of Nice, on account of my help to the Jews, I had some wonderful experiences that enriched both my life and my ministry. At a certain date I was to leave, being penniless and having no place to go. My friends and I were wondering what God would do. On the eve of my departure, a new translation of the Bible was given me in remembrance of some special service to a Jew; and in this Book, hidden as it were in the promises of God, I found as much money as I needed to get to Valence, a city where I knew there were real Christians. On my arrival there, it happened that I was three days without shelter, and going about in the cold nights I became ill with a high fever; then I wondered and prayed more earnestly, and through the Red Cross I was placed in a dormitory among fallen girls; the Catholic sisters in charge were kind to me and allowed me to stay until the fever left. Then it was that a dear Christian from the mountains of Ardêche, who had heard of my case, came to fetch me; and in her humble country house I found a lovely home and a blessed ministry among the peasants of France and among the prisoners. I thank God for every remembrance of the time spent there.

This fall there came such an earnest invitation to come up to see them all, and minister again to His children there, and so I went. And what a joy and blessing to go in and out in their dear homes! Even the children remembered me; and ever so many prisoners, now released, were there to welcome me. We have now a large house, a farm where released prisoners are cared for. This important work is in charge of one of my best friends in France, a devoted young man, with his equally fine wife; and we help with whatever we can. The sisters who sent the quilts may rejoice that they too have had a share in providing for this home, where God's love and grace are shown to the suffering ones.

At Christmas-time we made up parcels for the most miserable ones, such as have no relatives or friends. The letters coming in are so touching, it is with tears that we read and bless God for such a privilege. "Whom He did foreknow, He also called." "He will guide thee continually." This is a

promise that I claim day by day; and so it was that the Lord led me to several souls who were longing, seeking to know life's deepest purpose. They are now reading the Bible that I gave them, and their letters are encouraging, and that is the reason for asking you to take them to your heart.

Another crowning blessing of the year is Jean Pierre and his mother—both of them have grown in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord, during the more than six years since we led them to Christ. The dear young mother is working hard in a factory, in order to keep her son in school. The two are one in the Lord, always beginning and closing their day with the Word and prayer. Jean Pierre once told me that he always had enough to eat, but his mother often went without. She earns about $35.00 a month for all expenses, for heat and light and food. The father has tuberculosis and is in a sanatorium.

You should see Jean Pierre, a bright, radiant boy—he is a witness for the Lord in school and everywhere: he gives out tracts, and is already a fine children's evangelist. He spent his holidays, part time, with me, and we have such precious fellowship in prayer. If one reading this should have a used overcoat for a boy of fourteen years, it would be a great grace, for Jean Pierre has none. (Editor's Note: A warm new coat, cap and gloves have just been sent to Miss Christoffersen for this splendid lad.)

Wishing you a purposeful New Year, according to His plan, a year of fellowship in prayer and service, a year of abiding, of loving, of fulfilling the conditions laid down for answered prayer, "for herein is my Father glorified," I am, gratefully yours by grace,

Your fellow-worker,

TORDIS CHRISTOFFERSEN.

The Year in Germany

Ludwigsburg, November, 1953.

Dear Prayer-helpers:-

"There has no testing taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tested above that you are able." I am using the marginal reading in James 1.2 to this passage in I Corinthians 10.13. How gracious is the Lord!

After the previous cold, through a more severe testing this month, the Lord showed us that HE will not allow us to burn the candle at both ends. It sounded so reasonable, that on concluding the work of a trip to a distant camp, we could just drive home during the night, and be ready for further work, after a short rest. If we stayed over night in the distant place, lodging would be necessary, and most of the next day would be used for the return trip, and thus be lost. It was a human reasoning, not counting with human endurance, in the long run. Having had a head cold already, it is no wonder that I was finished off by some draft, while trying to rest. Praise the Lord for raising me up again, when the lesson had been learned.

So instead of gaining some time, I lost considerably, and how needed the time is, may be seen from a letter just received. We are not satisfied with contacting four or five camps each Sunday, and several during the week. Those whom we have formerly contacted, and who have emigrated to other lands, are not forgotten. For them we write and duplicate Gospel messages in their native language. They are scattered over several continents, and naturally will not be able to grasp the foreign tongue sufficiently to take in Gospel messages, if, indeed, they do get some dependable ones in their vicinity.

Thus a lady from Connecticut writes: "I thank you sincerely for the letter, and must admit that you are right. I see and feel now that I am really awakened, and want to stay thus. When I read your last printed messages, I suddenly became aware that I do not read the Word of God as diligently as I should. I hope you understand me. I have again asked the Lord to forgive me, and suddenly felt so relieved and joyful. I felt like a changed person, and now, when some wrong thought comes to me, I feel at once that it is not right, and that it would grieve the Lord Jesus. I cannot explain it better to you, but I have the assurance that I am saved, and also I have peace in my soul. Do I express myself properly? All that I experienced formerly seems insignificant in comparison. I used to think that by writing you about my continuing to read the Word, I was showing that all was well; but really I had put myself to sleep. It was my own fault.

"Do not think that I did not believe in the Lord Jesus. I did believe in Him, but I grieved Him, in that I often thought of the movies, or what pretty things I might buy myself, and that surely pained Him. Now I feel the Lord helps me in everything, and loves me. Surely I cannot be mistaken, in that I myself feel the assurance of salvation, believing the Lord Jesus died for my sins on the Cross. I believe you will understand me. And if I find something in the Bible that I cannot understand, I shall write for your advice. My husband never speaks with me about the Lord, and when I start to speak about something in that line, he avoids it by some excuse. I would be so glad if we could read together and meditate on these things, but to try to compel him to it, would not have any results." The writer concludes with some remarks about the family, and prayer for blessing upon our endeavors.

Does such a letter prove the need of our keeping contact, even with such as are far away? It is a large parish; indeed, I might say with John Wesley that the world is our parish. Sorry to say, that not all are as sincere in their writing, and many are so taken up with their new circumstances as not to write at all. But would that excuse us for not sending out encouragement, seeing how it works in a case like this? Sadly we notice how much scurrilous printed matter is being spread, and having nothing else to read, the people seize it eagerly, and swallow the perversions contained therein. Therefore we need to give them a real Gospel message which encourages those who do believe, and helps toward the salvation of other souls.

The world has many pitfalls and snares to delude the unwary, and its glitter appeals to those who for years have been held in the grip of poverty. How well it says in Proverbs 30.8, "Give me neither poverty nor riches." We see how poverty drags people down, even the educated, while prosperity is a snare to many, who find better conditions abroad. What a struggle it is here, we see in the case of a lawyer working in a United States Army supply house as a day laborer. Almost against hope, there seems to be some progress in his case. We request prayer for him, and also for a family we have been contacting, who left for Brazil. The two girls of twelve and fourteen made a profession of faith here, and gave fine evidence of it, but their father and older brother are very worldly.

One of the bad customs we have found here is a State gambling arrangement. It is based on the games of the football teams. People bet on the probable outcome of the twelve major teams. After deducting State taxes and the very large overhead expenses, a small portion of the total amount in the weekly bet is divided in three parts: those who guessed ten, eleven, or all twelve possible points. Naturally, those guesstng ten points are many, therefore the winning is insignificant, just to egg them on to do better the next time. Those guessing eleven points are fewer, giving larger shares, while the

guessers of twelve points are few, often only one, getting all the money, sometimes up to forty thousand dollars. There was a certain Mr. S. who used to come to our Gospel meetings, but as the betting fever fastened itself upon him, he came less regularly, and finally stopped altogether. He spends up to a third of his wages on the gambling; the children are undernourished, and his wife has lately been taken to the hospital with ulcers of the stomach. Yet he continues his folly, vainly hoping to win the "big chance." Praise the Lord, another man, who also used to gamble fanatically, has dropped it; and even professed conversion, since. He has a hard stand against his fanatical Roman Catholic family and relatives. While he wasted his substance, they were satisfied, but since he began to lead another life, they hinder him in every possible way. How truly the Lord said, that a man's enemies will be of his own household.

We must not forget a certain little girl and her activity, as it says that a little child shall lead them. As the changes in the camps necessitate also changes in our programs, we have started in another camp. The question was, how to draw in the children quickly, and it was here that the little girl showed her spirit, proposing to go out and "drum up" the others. How grand it would be if this spirit were extended to all, in every camp!

(January, 1954.) "To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4.19). This we seek to do, so long as the grace of the Lord is extended, and to warn of the day of vengeance which is fast drawing upon the world. We do not read newspapers nor take time for the radio, but from what we hear, there are increasing preparations for the rule of Antichrist, indicating also the coming of the Lord for His own. That will be a glorious day for the partakers thereof, and a sad awakening for those left behind. Shall we not hasten the message, while it is day?

Seeing the great need of those around us, we do not neglect those who have been scattered over the world, to whom we have been privileged to minister in the past. We cannot excuse ourselves from that responsibility. Prayer and letters can reach where we cannot, by His grace and your help. Though some do not respond, we praise the Lord for the encouraging reports received.

Thus Z. J., now in England, writes: "Hearty thanks for the printed letters, which reach me regularly, and which I peruse with interest." J. D., in Sydney, Australia, says: "Manifold thanks for the messages you are sending me. I have received them all, and they are strengthening me in my present life, the circumstances of which are not very favorable." A young minister, who also has been in Europe for a season, writes from Cleveland: "I receive your mimeographed messages with joy; mainly because my dear Dad is not saved, and I notice that he reads them through every time." Of course there are also adverse criticisms, indicating the state of mind of the writer. A message stressing the need of really knowing Christ personally was returned with this note: "Stick this on your hat. It is comically interesting to be advised to discover Christ, who has been here for two thousand years!" The best that most religions can give people is a historic personage, without saving power.

Though we cannot devote much time to the men in the occupation forces, occasionally we have to step in and act. Thus I noticed a sergeant about to be dragged off by a group of drinking fellows, who would exploit his capacity to pay. Offering him some English tracts, we came to speak in English, which the others did not understand, and helped him to get rid of that company. We do not succeed every time, but this case led to closer

contacts, till he, with his family, returned to the United States. Now his wife writes from Oklahoma: "Do hope you are both well, and though I do not do much writing, your letters and good blessings would be appreciated. My husband is in Korea. I know he would love to hear from you." The address in Korea follows. Surely we will have to send him some encouragement, and thus again broaden our sphere of activity and service.

The Christmas season is over, once more—how much good was done with all the efforts, only the Lord knows. During our Christmas program in one of the camps, the question was put: "Where did Joseph and Mary usually live?" One little fellow answered promptly: "In Camp Weil-im-Dorf." Evidently he had some contemporary couple in mind. That is the result of the religious teaching, which makes the wonderful event in Bethlehem a fairy-tale, including Santa Claus. Human inventions take the place of the real message of God. The Midnight Mass, the highest Roman Catholic ceremony, is made ridiculous in practice. The priest celebrating the mass is supposed to do so only on an empty stomach, so that he may partake honorably of the "host," the body of Christ which the priest himself has "made" at the mass. By that it is understood that the priest is to abstain from eating and drinking after midnight. But it is customary at Christmas to feast up to midnight, with the result that often the priest comes to the altar on rather wobbly feet. That the parishioners follow suit, is not matter for surprise.

Of course, superstitions go nicely with the Roman Catholic religion, fostered by some of their practices. People try to ascertain their fate during the ensuing year, by pouring molten lead into water. It takes some imagination to guess what the odd shapes mean, but the "Holy Christmas Season" makes these things come true!

Girls and women are usually the ones most interested in these superstitions—are they not the most faithful? They take a slipper, stand with their back to the door, and cast it over the left shoulder. If the point happens to be toward the door, then they will marry that year and go out of the house. Or the whole peeling of an apple is also thrown over the shoulder, and the letter formed by it indicates the name of the future husband. This superstitious atmosphere affects the children also.

We used the Christmas vacation as an occasion for a Daily Vacation Bible School, in one camp for three, in another for four days in succession. In the one camp is a community house, run by the State church, which makes the semblance of an effort for the girls. They teach them some handwork and have devotions, but the boys are left to run wild. As we have been visiting that camp once a month, the children knew we were interested in them. Therefore we were not surprised to see more boys than girls come to our sessions. Their behavior was not exemplary, to begin with, but they improved noticeably even in that short time. They were enthusiastic about the lessons, and not even a chance for sledding would keep them from attending three times a day. The scheduled two and a half hours were easily stretched into three and four, barely leaving us time to eat. The evening was divided, from 6:30 to 8:00 for the children, then the young people and older ones at 8:00. But some of the children wanted to stay on, and brought written permission from their homes, indicating that they might do so.

There is always the problem of necessary room. Though there was a spare bedroom, we were not accorded the use of it, but had to place army cots in the meeting-room, which had to be removed again in the morning. In that particular place the State pastor had been a missionary in China, therefore he was more tolerant toward us than toward others, so far as it lay in his power. Naturally, the church does not want to help to spread

heresies, but they can easily see that we teach the true Word of God. But there remains the necessary implication—why does the church not do what we do?

Speaking of the assurance of salvation, one of the older girls stoutly maintained, "It is not possible to know"! That gave us occasion to quote the Scriptures, and point out that Christ and the Word of God do not lie. Yet she would stick to the teaching of the church. However, when we gave the invitation to any who would like personal instruction how to turn to Christ, a boy and a girl came. That they took it seriously was evidenced by their own prayers at the close of the instruction. We hope that some more will come to the knowledge of real salvation, in time.

In the other camp we found two families willing to let us hold the Daily Vacation Bible School in their only room. It is no small matter to clean up after thirty-five children. Also grown-ups visit the classes occasionally, and are enthusiastic over the palpable way in which the Gospel is presented, one saying that it could benefit other people also. The songs also are intriguing. One man brought his wife to hear, and asked that certain ones be repeated for her benefit. An older lady could not take her eyes off Mrs. Lukesh, as she was leading a motion song. Of course, critics can be found also, complaining that we do not use songs as in the church. They may have pious sentiment, but do not aspire to conversion. That such is possible is seen in the case of a fourteen-year-old boy, who, before we came in contact with the family, used to skip the public school two weeks at a time, sleep outside rather than come home, and steal to have something to eat. Now he gives evidence of a new life, reads the Bible, and is zealous for the things of God.

Thank you for your prayerful upholding of us in the past, and we trust you will continue to do so in this New Year. May it bring the Lord, and bring us to Himself.

In His wonderful service, yours,

CHARLES and EDNA LUKESH.

The Year in Argentina

Bowen, Mendoza, December 14, 1953.

Dear Sister in the Lord, Ekaterina Normanovna:-

First of all I hasten to send you my congratulations on the approaching joyful festival of the birthday of Christ, and with all my heart to wish you good fortune and the abundant blessings of God in your labors for Him and in your personal life. May the Lord keep you ever in the hollow of His hand, and make you in the future also His obedient instrument for His glory and for the heartening and joy of many souls.

Your kind letters for November and December, with checks enclosed, were received in due time. Again and again, on reading them, we heartily thanked God for you. May the Lord reward you according to His great grace in Christ Jesus! We are glad and grateful to God that you are well again and able to carry on the great work which has been laid upon you. By the mercy of God, we ourselves feel somewhat better now, but even so, after all that we experienced during the past winter, we still do not dare to start off

on any distant and extensive missionary journeys. Invitations keep coming, we would like very much to go, but it is not possible. I remember a tale of the wounded eagle, who stood longingly by the shore of the sea, looking up to the blue expanse of heaven, where he formerly soared and wheeled, but he can only stand there longing. It seems to me that at the present time I am not worthy of that love and care which you have always shown us.

We are now passing through the hot and oppressive summer, which at times brings heavy hail-storms, doing much damage to fields and gardens. A few days ago we had such a storm, so heavy that many farmers had all the results of their labor destroyed. One poor brother, a DP who recently arrived here, went out on his farm after the terrible hail-storm, looked around him, sat down and began to cry. He has a heavy debt to pay, and was hoping to be able to make a sizable advance toward it, but now everything is destroyed; he, his wife and child are in need. Not without reason does a certain Russian poet prayerfully exclaim: "Keep far from us, O Lord, the storm of hail; protect, O Lord, the harvest-field on which we have labored!"

(January 24.) We have received your good, kind letters with congratulations and good wishes for the holidays of Christmas and the New Year, also the check for January. We also received your photographs. We heartily thank you for all your care and love.

The Lord has blessed us and helped us to conduct special meetings during the past few weeks of the Russian holidays. We conducted a whole series of meetings, with the help of one visiting brother, who has been invited from another place. We had good programs for the children, with a Christmas Tree, in several places. All the meetings were well attended, both by grown-ups and by children.

Tomorrow, if the Lord wills, I am expecting to start off on a long and distant journey. The brethren have earnestly invited me to attend the annual conferences in various places. We are having very hot weather here now, and it is very difficult and fatiguing to make journeys under present circumstances. From Buenos Aires one must take a plane to the distant province of Misiones, because it is very difficult to go by train or steamer, it is very crowded, and takes about four days. Because there is so little room on the small river steamers, one sometimes has to spend the night on deck, lying on his luggage. The trains also are simply jammed with passengers. Pray, dear sister, that the Lord may give us the spiritual and physical strength for these journeys. After my illness of last winter, I feel myself to be weaker. My wife remains home in Bowen, but she too often suffers from physical weakness. May the Lord oversee all this, and give the strength and the opportunity for further testimony in these various places.

I have again received a letter from our brethren in far-off Brazil, with the request that I visit the mission fields among the vast Slavonic immigrant population there. We have a great many friends there now from Europe, DP's who have emigrated from Germany and other lands.

I will try to write a more detailed account. It may be necessary to spend several months on the journey, if the Lord gives health and strength. With heartiest greetings and good wishes, we remain,

Yours in the love of Christ,

JOHN and MARY KOVALCHUK.

(Will you not join us in prayer that these dear ones may be sustained in their labor of love, so faithfully performed amidst such great difficulties?)

AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP RECEIPTS, Dec. 1953 - Jan. 1954

(The First National Bank in Yonkers is depositary for all gifts. Contributions to the Fellowship are deductible from Federal income tax returns.)

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